

## FLORIDA TOPICS

Short Items from  
all Sections  
of the State

A \$20,000 convent is to be built in Jacksonville at once.

The Benner Steamship Company will build a new wharf at Miami.

F. H. Hale, a well known real estate man of Palatka, died last week.

Many people are moving into Jasper to take advantage of the schools at that place.

The Jacksonville Suburban and Seashore Railway is fast securing the right of way for its line.

It costs the city of Pensacola upwards of \$65,000 a year to run its police and fire departments.

Large shipments of cattle continue to be made from Punta Gorda. The average is more than 650 head a week.

The Davis murder mystery in Dade county has been given up as unsolvable by the detectives and all county officers.

The taxpayers of Duval county will pay a tax levy of 16 mills and a state levy of 6 mills, making a grand total of 22 mills.

The chief engineer of the Suwannee and San Pedro railroad will soon commence the survey of that road from Fernandina.

At the term of circuit court held in Marianna, Jackson county, last week, there were twenty-three convictions for illegal selling of whiskey.

The celebrated "Hernandez" case, brought by the East Coast railway to adjust the question of damages for land used from defendant to straighten the track, came up in St. Augustine last week.

The Hillsborough County Medical association held a meeting at Tampa last week, Drs. Porter and Guiteras being present. Dr. Guiteras, who is the noted Havana physician, delivered an able lecture.

The presence of caterpillars in the cotton crop in Alachua county is causing consternation on the part of the growers. Cotton which has opened in the past few days has also been badly damaged by the rain.

Because the mosquitoes are too numerous on the Indian river, the handsome new dredge and snagboat Florida of the United States Engineering department has been taken out of commission for the next thirty days.

The trouble between the union carpenters and the contractors of Jacksonville has reached the courts by the Builders' Exchange asking for an injunction restraining the union men from boycotting or placing a member of the exchange on the unfair list.

The property owners of West Palm Beach and vicinity carried a special school district election last week by a vote of 86 to 6. There will be a levy of three mills for high school purposes. A new school building on a new and large site will be erected, to cost about \$25,000, and the school will be one of the best in the state.

Sheriff Fennell, assisted by Deputies J. H. Granger, J. Lee Stokes, J. D. Siford, G. W. Livingston and Jack Martin, succeeded Saturday in making a successful raid on "blind tigers" in Newberry, having captured four. These places are alleged to have been conducting almost open saloons, using very little discretion and any amount of "loose."

A small negro boy, by the name of Jimmie Pottsamer, was accidentally scalded by the bursting of a pipe at the ice factory at Lake City, last Saturday night. He had been in the habit of making the boiler room his sleeping place, although he had been warned against it. The boy had no father and his mother had been unkind to him. He was unable to escape, the water bursting in his face as he arose.

The members of the board of commissioners of state institutions on Thursday inspected the state hospital for the insane at Chattahoochee. The last legislature made an appropriation for the construction of a building for the use of the colored male patients and the members of the board went to select a site for the erection of this building, besides making a general inspection of affairs at the asylum.

A very severe stroke of lightning at Lake City, Sunday morning about 11 o'clock, caused three negro women in a house near the union depot to be completely stunned. One had been prepared for burial when she recovered, the other two having previously recovered. They were standing near a window when the bolt fell, and a bed in the same room was completely demolished. The lightning was resumed in the afternoon with heavy rain, and several claps almost made the earth resound.

The mayor of Pensacola wants the dogs of that city muzzled.

St. Augustine's electric light war is still agitating the ancients.

Perry, Taylor county, is threatened with a large department store.

Large cargoes of lumber are being shipped from Pensacola to Italy and Holland.

250 dozen cans of tomatoes were shipped from the canning factory at Reddick last week.

Taylorville, Lake county, has grown so rapidly in the past year, that they are to have a graded school, with Mrs. Hunter as teacher.

The Palmetto town council has passed a law prohibiting minors under 17 years of age from loitering on the streets after 7 p. m.

In the municipal election at Fort Myers last week, W. D. Bell was elected by seven majority over the high man of the four other candidates.

The Florida Naval Store & Cattle company, with headquarters at Manatee, are making preparations for the extensive cultivation of eucalyptus this year on their lands at Wimauma.

Several towns in the state are after the Gainesville and Gulf railway, desiring a branch run into their respective towns. Lake City wants the track torn up at Sampson City and the line run to that city.

If the Miami rifles follow the instructions of the county commissioners they will be forced, from present indications, to place their armory in the street, or go into camp until such time as a new armory can be established on a suitable place found that can be rented.

The Micanopy section has been visited by another disastrous fire and C. E. Melton was the victim for the second time within three months. The lumber yard of Mr. Melton was destroyed by fire last week and the stock on hand, valued at \$15,000, was consumed by the blaze.

A big land deal which has been under consideration for some time was consummated in Pensacola last week, when J. R. Saunders purchased for himself and associates 75,000 acres of timber lands from J. A. Chaffin & Co. The consideration for this immense tract of land was about half a million dollars. The land lies in Santa Rosa and Holmes counties.

Taylor Frierson, the prince of traders, has again turned over the wheel of fortune and drew a \$30,000 prize. A few days ago he sold his stock of 4,000 head of cattle at Fort Bassenger to Geo. Mann for that sum. Mr. Frierson acquired this sum in a trade with Mr. Goodno for the Fort Thompson stock farm. Mr. Mann is an experienced stock man, and will in turn make a good profit out of this deal, and has gone to Fort Bassenger to give the stock his personal attention.

The fourteen rooms in the third floor of Chandon Hall are being completed for the big rush expected in October. It begins to look as if every room in Stetson University will be taken, and a number of students will have to board outside. Rev. Howard Gibbons, who returned from a trip of the East Coast in the interest of the school, this week, informs the writer that prospects were unusually bright, and that from several towns where only one of two have come before, a half dozen to a dozen may be expected this year. "The more the merrier,"—DeLand News.

George F. Ensey, of Tropic, Merritts Island, who owns the State right to manufacture or sell a new sporting or blasting powder and who has been in the city for the past several days, says the Miami Metropolis, endeavoring to raise a stock company for the purpose of manufacturing the blasting powder here, has received so much encouragement by the tests that have been made of the new explosive, that he has decided not to form a company, but to take up the manufacture and sale of the article individually; and within a very short time will begin the erection of his plant.

Samuel Simmons, a wealthy naval stores and saw mill man and his son, Ely Simmons, were shot and killed near White House, about fifteen miles from Jacksonville last Friday by Thomas Hisler, who enters the plea of self defense. The bodies of father and son were found in the pine woods, near the public road. The elder Simmons was shot through the heart by a full charge of buckshot and the heart was found on the ground about a foot from the body, it having been evidently torn out by hand after the shooting. There were seven bullet wounds in the body of Ely

Simmons. He was also shot in the back with a charge of bird shot.

A trip to Havana, Cuba, is being planned by the Orlando fire company.

The first bale of new crop of sea island cotton has been brought to Lake City to be ginned.

A. J. Giles, a foreman on the S. A. L. at Fernandina, was run over by a freight train in that place Wednesday and instantly killed.

The steamer Sigo sank at the wharf in Carrabelle, Sunday morning. Capt. Ira Sanborn lost many valuable papers and some furniture.

The only inmate of the poor house of Sumter county died last week. This was hard on the inmate, but speaks well for the county.

A special school tax election was carried in Titusville Monday and as a result a four-mill tax will be levied for public school purposes.

A wet and dry election will be held in Volusia county and Wednesday, Sept. 27, is the date set for the election by the county commissioners.

The county commissioners of Putnam county have named Tuesday, Sept. 26, as the date for the holding of a wet and dry election in that county.

Contractors are making arrangements to proceed with the dredging of a twenty-foot channel from the mouth of Hillsborough river to Tampa bay.

Quite a little movement is observed in real estate in Sarasota, much of it by permanent investors who will build homes, and also some for speculation.

The Orlando census enumerator recently found a colored man who has had three wives and is the father of twenty-nine children. As the enumerator gets ten cents a head, this group was a bonanza.

An organization of Palatka liquor men was formed on Wednesday night for the purpose of conducting a canvass that may result in the county continuing its present policy of licensing the saloons.

The continual rains in the Starke section have damaged the cotton crop to some extent, and unless the weather soon changes the crop will be materially injured. New cotton is coming into market and bringing good prices.

A female wildcat in the vicinity of Cocoa has been bringing up a family on spring chickens, thus making the supply a little short when the parson called. A hunt was instituted and her ladyship and two young kittens were captured.

The first evidence of winter and the coming tourist season made its appearance this morning in the arrival of several carloads of coal for the Royal Palm Hotel, and from this time on preparations for the next opening of this famous hostelry will be active.—Miami Metropolis.

Mayor Charles H. Bliss, of Pensacola, who was arrested a few days since for storing a large quantity of dynamite in the city, was given a hearing Friday before Justice Lanley in the Recorder's court and discharged, the Judge holding that the Mayor had stored the dynamite in his official capacity and not as a merchant or individual.

One hundred and fifteen prisoners are now confined in the Duval county jail. Of this number eight are white men and eight are colored women. Most of the prisoners will be arranged in the criminal court at the regular term that will convene on Tuesday, Aug. 22nd. From the present indications it appears that this court will be in session for at least three weeks, as many important cases are to be heard.

The Southern Railway company is endeavoring to assist the immigration bureau folks in their attempt to divert the stream of immigration to the South, and is sending an agent to Europe to endeavor to induce the steamship companies to land immigrants at Southern ports, where they are wanted, rather than at New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, where they are not wanted. Italian and other immigrants who have come south in the last few years have been remarkably successful. Many have gone into fruit raising, and large numbers have found employment in the cotton fields.

The situation between the striking carpenters and the builders of Jacksonville has reached an acute stage and has caused a large number of brick masons and carpenters to leave the city. Good carpenters seem to be scarce in various Southern cities and the wages run from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per day. The contractors remain firm, and say that they will never stand for a minimum rate of \$2.50 for unskilled labor. The union carpenters say that the national organization has endorsed them, and that there will be no compromise. Numerous buildings are being constructed by day labor, and carpenters who are engaged thereon are being paid the scale asked for by the unions.

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